



OBJECT LESSON

[10 min]

God's Light Shines Through the Dark

Supplies

- tall, clear vase or pitcher of water
- large container of instant coffee mix
- spoons
- large mixing spoon
- laser pointer

Tip

- Your church media team may have a laser pointer you can borrow. If not, ask any pet owner friends if they have one. You also can often find them at the dollar store, in pet stores, office supply stores, or the pet or office sections of department stores.

Make “Night” in a Glass

Say: **In our Bible story, we found out how God guided his friends out of a terrible place. God put a special cloud in the sky during the day and a tall fire in the sky at night. God's friends were in a hard time in their lives, but even when things seemed so dark, God's fiery light showed that he was with them. Let's do something to help us think about that.**

- Place the pitcher or vase of water on a preschool-height table with the opened container of instant coffee and a couple of spoons next to it.
- Explain that kids will make the water turn dark to look like night. Allow preschoolers, two at a time, to place a scoop of instant coffee mix into the water. If you have a small group of kids, you can allow each to put in two scoops to make sure the coffee is very dark.
- When everyone has added his or her scoops, hold the container as kids take turns using the mixing spoon to stir the coffee mixture.

Experiment With Light

- Remind kids that God's fiery light shined in the darkness. Ask preschoolers to vote with a thumbs-up if they think the “night” they made in the cup will block the light from shining through it or a thumbs-down if they think light can shine through.
- Add another scoop or two of coffee, stir, and have kids vote one more time.
- Shine the laser pointer on the floor, then move the point of light to a distant wall while preschoolers watch. Point out how powerful the light is.
- Have preschoolers each hold out a hand so you can shine the point of light quickly on each child's hand.
- Explain that you'll now test the light to see whether it can shine through the “dark night.”
- Have preschoolers gather around the table where the coffee is, if they aren't already, and shine the laser pointer light through the coffee at a level where the light won't hit anyone's eyes.
- Have preschoolers each hold out a hand again, and quickly shine the light on each child's hand.

Talk About It

Say: **Wow! Even though we made this coffee so dark, this light is powerful enough to shine through the dark and reach each one of you! Like that, when you are sad and everything feels dark like it did for God's friends in the Bible, God can still reach you! God is with us in hard times.**



CRAFT

Light in the Darkness

[20 min]

Supplies

- “Shepherd Night Light” handout (1 for every 2 kids) (download [here](#))
- brightly colored markers
- heart-shaped stickers
- transparent tape
- battery-operated tea lights (1 for every 5 or 6 kids)

Easy Prep

- Make a sample craft to show kids.
- Cut apart the “Shepherd Night Light” handouts so each child will have one night light cover.



Make Night Lights

Say: **Today we’re talking about times we feel sad or afraid. There are things that help us feel better in those hard times.**

Share about something that helps *you* feel better when you’re sad or afraid. Maybe it’s a good friend, a favorite song, or spending time in prayer.

Ask: • **What helps *you* feel better when you’re sad or afraid?** Kids may say Mom, a favorite stuffed animal, or a night light.

Say: **Sometimes we feel afraid when our rooms are really dark. Let’s make something to help us feel better in the dark.**

- Give half a “Shepherd Night Light” handout to each child.
- Encourage kids to color the pictures with brightly colored markers.
- Have them add a few heart stickers to their crafts.
- Help kids use tape to make their craft into cylinders.

Try the Night Lights

Say: **These special night lights can help us remember that God is with us in hard times. He’s even with us in our rooms at night! Let’s try our night lights right now.**

- Form groups of five or six kids. Give each group a glowing tea light.
- Dim the lights as much as possible.

- Encourage kids to take turns putting their covers over the light to see how it glows.

Say: **God is with us all the time. He's with us whenever we're sad or afraid.**

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